

Serial No.: 09/981,274

Docket No.: ECV-5627

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Responsive to Office Action of February 8, 2005

**I. CLAIM LISTING****Amendments to the claims:**

1. (Presently Amended) A method of removing ~~infectious agents~~ prions from mammalian soft-tissue, said method comprising subjecting said soft-tissue to extraction with a medium comprising a supercritical fluid, thereby removing said prions ~~infectious agents~~.

1 2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said  
2 prions are causative agents of spongiform encephelopathy.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 fluid is carbon dioxide.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the  
2 tissue is treated with about 100 to about 500 grams of supercritical carbon dioxide/gram of  
3 tissue.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the  
2 tissue is treated with carbon dioxide for a period determined as a function of carbon dioxide  
3 flow rate in order to permit passage of about 100 grams to about 500 grams of supercritical  
4 carbon dioxide/gram of tissue.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the  
2 tissue is treated with carbon dioxide for a period determined as a function of carbon dioxide  
3 flow rate in order to permit passage of about 200 grams to about 400 grams of supercritical  
4 carbon dioxide/gram of tissue.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the  
2 supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a pressure between about  $1 \times 10^7$  Pa and about  $5 \times$   
3  $10^7$  Pa.

Serial No.: 09/981,274

Docket No.: ECV-5627

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Responsive to Office Action of February 8, 2005

1                   10.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the  
2     supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a pressure between about  $2 \times 10^7$  Pa and  $4 \times 10^7$  Pa.

1                   11.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the  
2     supercritical carbon dioxide is applied at a temperature between about 40 °C. and about 55  
3     °C.

1                   12.     (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said  
2     supercritical fluid is selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of  
3     fluorocarbons, and alkanes.

1                   13.     (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said  
2     fluorocarbons is are selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of  
3     chlorodifluoromethane and trifluoromethane.

1                   14.     (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said alkanes is  
2     are selected from one or more compounds of the group consisting of ethylene, propane and  
3     ethane.

1                   15.     (Presently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said ~~critical,~~  
2     supercritical ~~or near-critical~~ fluid is selected from one or more compounds of the group  
3     consisting of nitrous oxide, nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

1                   16.     (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2     ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue is derived from an organ.

1                   17.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2     mammalian soft-tissue is nerve tissue.

1                   18.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2     mammalian soft-tissue is muscle tissue.

1                   19.     (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2     mammalian soft tissue is adipose tissue.

Serial No.: 09/981,274

Docket No.: ECV-5627

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Responsive to Office Action of February 8, 2005

1                   20.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 mammalian soft-tissue is glandular tissue.

1                   21.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 mammalian soft-tissue is epithelial tissue.

1                   22.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 mammalian soft-tissue is endothelial tissue.

1                   23.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 mammalian soft tissue is myocardial tissue.

1                   24.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 mammalian soft-tissue is vascular tissue.

1                   25.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue is lymphatic tissue.

1                   26.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises respiratory tissue.

1                   27.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises digestive tissue.

1                   28.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises sensory tissue.

1                   29.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises urinary tissue.

1                   30.   (Presently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 ~~animal material~~ mammalian soft tissue comprises reproductive tissue.

1                   31.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 method further comprises adding a modifier or entrainer to said supercritical fluid.

Serial No.: 09/981,274

Docket No.: ECV-5627

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Responsive to Office Action of February 8, 2005

1                    32.    (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein  
2    said modifier or entrainer is a surfactant.

1                    33.    (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31, wherein said  
2    modifier or entrainer is water.

1                    34.    (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein  
2    said modifier or entrainer is an alcohol.

**Docket No.**

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said alcohol is ethanol.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein said alcohol is n-propanol.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein said modifier or entrainer is a ketone.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 37, wherein said ketone is acetone.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Canceled).

42. (Canceled).

43. (Canceled).

44. (Canceled).